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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Mobile Security Units in North Korea

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INFO.

1. The Public Safety Bureau of the Ministry of Interior maintains a motor-tricycle unit in Pyongyang, in charge of special guard duties for the North Korean police. The unit headquarters, in a former privately owned bicycle shop in the area between Kogansamachi (黄金町) and Yachiyo-machi (A代町) (Japanese designations) in Pyongyang, has 60 to 70 motor-tricycles and 3 motor-bicycles. These were originally the property of Japanese police, military, or civilians and were utilized immediately after the war by various Korean government organizations, including the People's Committee Red Guard Unit. The unit is commanded by a senior lieutenant of the police constabulary and composed of 120 non-commissioned officers and enlisted men and 60 drivers; all troops are equipped with rifles and sub-machine guns.
2. A bicycle unit, also under the Public Safety Bureau of the Ministry of Interior, has headquarters in the building formerly occupied by the geisha guild of Nigiwai-machi (平壤眠町), Pyongyang. It is commanded by a police constabulary junior lieutenant and made up of 106 enlisted men. Its equipment consists of an unstated number of bicycles with 26-inch wheels, imported from the USSR; its armament is rifles. The unit was in training for "liaison" in the summer of 1949.
3. Towards the end of August 1949, approximately 250 Soviet-made two-man motorcycles were used along the 38th parallel. In operation, the driver is armed with a rifle and his passenger with one light machine gun capable of free traverse. By 20 October, approximately 130 of the motorcycles were in an inoperable condition due to a lack of parts and a lack of maintenance. They were returned to Pyongyang for repairs but little progress was made in restoring them to operation.

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